for providing guidelines in this regard;

(d) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(e) if not, by when Government proposed to do so?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) to (c) A few State Governments did intimate the Central Government about their inability in identifying the income tax assessees and their family members for exclusion from Public Distribution System (PDS) in respect of Sugar. However, after a meeting of the State Government officers concerned to finalise the modalities, it has been decided to give the State Governments time upto 30.06.2000 to complete the process of identification of all the card holders who are also income tax assessees and exclude them for the purpose of distribution of sugar under the PDS.

Export of Wheat and Rice

†4278. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA :

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the reserve storage of wheat and rice in the country is more than the requisite storage quantity;

(b) if so, whether Government have found out possibilities of exporting this wheat and rice;

(c) if so, the quantum of wheat exported during the year 2000, along with names of the countries;

(d) the price of the exported wheat; and

(e) the names of countries to which offer has been made so far to sell this wheat and rice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The stocks of foodgrains (wheat and rice) particularly that of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

wheat in the Central Pool are much in excess of the buffer stock norms. In view of the normal wheat crop, liquidation of excess wheat stocks has become necessary. Export of wheat can be one way of liquidating the stocks. Enquiries regarding import of wheat have been received from iraq, Russia, Nepal and Mauritius.

Government had in 1999. decided to supply 50,000 MTs of wheat from the Central Pool to His Majesty's Government of Nepal on Government to Government basis at rates not lower than the Food Corporation of India's (FCI's) Open Market Sales Scheme (OMSS) rates. However, the Government of Nepal have lifted only 4939 tonnes of wheat upto 31-3-2000. Ruling prices of wheat in India being very high, compared to the international prices, the export potential of Indian wheat is extremely bleak. As a result, export deal with no other country could so far be clinched.

As regards rice, there is no proposal at present to export rice from Central Pool.

Kerosene Distribution Disparity in Punjab

4279. SHRI LAJPAT RAI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that there is wide disparity in the quantity of kerosene being issued to ration card holders under Public Distribution System in various districts of Punjab, which ranges from approximately from 4 liters to 18 liters per cards ; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to remove the disparity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) Kerosene is an allocated products. Central Government makes bulk allocations of Kerosene to the States Union Territories and its distribution within the State and its monitoring is the responsibility of the concerned State Government, State Governments decide on the district wise allocation and the quantity to be allocated to ration card holders.

As per the recently decided policy of the State Government of Punjab, 8 litres of kerosene oil is issued to the card holders in rural areas and 12 liters of kerosene oil to card holders in urban areas per month, uniformly in all the districts, 3 liters of kerosene oil is issued to the consumers having Single Cylinder gas connection and no kerosene oil is issued to those who have Doubled Cylinder Gas connection.